

## Parish IVews Great Waltham Ford End Howe Street Littley Green North End

August 2025

## Ford End Scarecrow Festival - June 2025

For the fourth time running, this time on the 22nd June, lots and lots of scarecrows descended upon the village of Ford End, as well as lots of visitors, who very generously walked round the scarecrow trail on a hot day, guessed the riddle, ate ice creams, and had a cup of tea and a slice of cake in the church yard. Rev Dan very kindly judged the scarecrows (which always entails a bit of light-hearted competitiveness amongst those residents displaying scarecrows), and lo and behold, Rev Dan kept appearing everywhere - there were two Rev Dan scarecrows on display! This year, we had everything from a Trump scarecrow to Mary Mary Quite Contrary, and from Wicked to Jeremy Clarkson on display. We hope you enjoy the photos. This year, after expenses, we raised £668.98 for the church and village hall, but, equally importantly, it was an excellent community event. The organisers would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone involved!!





## Inside this months Great Waltham Parish News

Great Waltham Primary School performance, Gardening Club visits, Church Services, Play area project, Parish Council Update, Ford End Senior Teas, Community Care Group and more than **two pages of adverts for almost every need.** 



## Coffee Morning Blackchapel, North End



Come and join your neighbours for a coffee and chat

Last Wednesday in the month 10.30 - 12.00



## Church of England Services Summer 2025

## <u>August</u>

3rd-11.00amFamily Communion - Great Waltham10th11.00amFamily Communion - Little Leighs17th11.00amFamily Communion - Chignals24th11.00amFamily Communion - Ford End31st11.00amFamily Communion - Little WalthamSeptember

7<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Communion - Great Waltham

## Still Waters every Thursday Evening 6.00pm – 6.30pm held at St Martin's Little Waltham

"An oasis of calm in our otherwise busy lives".

Please join us.

Contact: Alison Bates Parish Administrator Tel: 07957 228467 admin@littleandgreat.org.uk

## Little Waltham United Reformed Church Services for August, 2025

Contact: Liz Hagon - 01245 36087 All services begin at 10.30am

3rd - Andy Moore 10th - Marina Price 17th - John Amos

24th - Rev. Geoffrey Griggs - Holy Communion

31st - Rev. Geoffrey Griggs

Other Events

7th - Coffee and Cake 10am - 12pm 16th - Coffee Morning 10am -11a.m.

## Services at Blackchapel, North End August 2025

Sunday 3rd Family Services Sunday 17th Family Service

## **LITTLE WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB - July 2025**

On a pleasant cool day in July, 17 Gardening Club members visited the gardens at 'Dragons', Boyton Cross. The three quarter acre garden was crammed with a wide variety of plants. (The owner, Margot, is a confessed 'plantaholic'). The herbaceous borders, many of them colour themed, drew the eye due to the artful placement of plants together. Crocosmia, Day Lilies and Dahlias in the 'hot' border greeted us. Small pathways led to almost secret seating where there was always a plant or other feature to catch the eye. A sloping gravel bank provided the ideal spot for heat loving herbs, and succulents. The afternoon was rounded off with tea and delicious cakes amidst this horticultural splendour.

On August 6th, 2.00pm, Members to meet at RHS Hyde Hall.

On September 3rd, 7.30pm the Club resumes its monthly evening meetings in the Memorial Hall. Apiarist Clive de Bruyn, well known and experienced bee keeper will be giving a presentation on 'Encouraging Pollinators to your Garden '

October 1st - 'Sustainable Living' by Tony Dunn of Braintree Organic Garden Society. Our evening meetings are open to everyone. We'd be pleased to welcome you to our meetings. For more information see website <a href="https://www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk">www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk</a>. Or Phone M. Williams 01245 360042.

## Great Waltham Recreation Ground Play Area - We Need You!

It was lovely to share our ideas with so many children at the Great Waltham School Fete recently and plans for the new play area at the recreation ground are progressing well. Thanks to your support, we've raised £1,610 so far. Our goal is big - £160,000 but with the whole community behind us, we believe it's possible. Now's the time to get involved. We're calling on residents and local businesses to help shape this much-needed revamp. Whether it's a donation, sponsorship, or simply spreading the word - every action counts.

A children's play area for the whole community, let's make it happen together. Join us at the Play in the Park event at Great Waltham Recreation Ground on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August to see what we've been working on!

Get in touch: <a href="mailto:gtwalthamplayground@gmail.com">gtwalthamplayground@gmail.com</a>

Donate/share: gofundme.com/f/great-waltham-playground-

refresh-2025



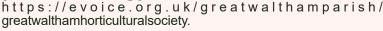


## **Great Waltham Horticultural Society**

Don't Forget **The HUT** open on Sundays 10.00 - 11.00 for your gardening

**The ANNUAL SHOW** on September 20<sup>th</sup> 2pm - 4.30pm. Show schedules available from Liz Bennion 07850570075; email

greatwalthamhortsoc@gmail.com or



We look forward to your entries or coming to the show to see all the exhibits and enjoy tea, coffee and cakes by the Twinning Association

## Walthambury W I

This month was all about gardens! We had a guided private tour around the house and NGS gardens of Blunt's

Hall, Witham. It was a splendid visit in the sunshine, with knowledgeable hosts telling us about the history and garden reconstruction, followed by an excellent cream tea. Our July meeting was held at a local resident's garden in Great Waltham, where we enjoyed socialising and exploring the beautiful landscaped gardens, followed by a garden quiz, tea and a wonderful selection of homemade cakes supplied by our members. We have a High Easter walk, a croquet taster session and lunch at the Compasses all coming up.





## FORD END GARDEN CLUB

In late June about 20 of us visited the garden of Deb and Ray fielding in Onslow Green. Deb is very involved with the Wilderness Foundation charity working with young people, their mental health and nature. The invitation to visit the garden was made on behalf of this charity. The afternoon was warm and sunny so just right for wandering around the large, well tended garden with beautiful, colourful planting and lovely views. We were impressed by the walled

vegetable plot with a striking greenhouse; admired the ponds with koi carp and relaxed in the acres of large trees from all over the world that were chosen for the suitable growing conditions in Essex. The owners of the garden explained the recent development and history of it and some of their plans for the future. They also described the struggle they have with the damage caused to young plants by rabbits and muntjac in particular. To round off a very special afternoon we were offered tea, cakes and delicious strawberries.

There is no meeting in August so the next one will be on Wednesday 17 September at 7.30 pm in Ford End village hall when Mary Williams will be talking about 'Taking Cuttings'. Everyone is welcome to our meetings.



## **Parish Directory**

To advertise in the Parish News, please contact us by email on gwparishnews@gmail.com







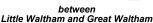
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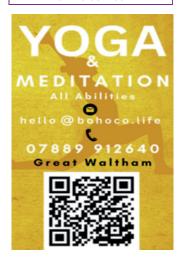
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## **ALL ABOUT** GARDENS

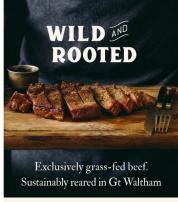
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## Great Waltham C of E Primary School The Jungle Book

What a truly wonderful show our pupils delivered!

We are very proud of the singing, dancing and acting that we witnessed throughout the production. Most importantly, it was clear that the children really enjoyed themselves. Well done to all involved.

It was lovely to welcome parents and carers to North America's parents lunch this week. The atmosphere was wonderful, and Year 6 parents even had the pleasure of staying for a game of rounders... obviously the children won!



## **ADANGER**

## Walthambury Reservoirs



Do not swim

We would like to remind everyone that swimming and fishing are strictly not permitted in the reservoirs around Walthambury Farm. Clear signage and life buoys have been put in place for safety and to discourage unauthorised access. However, we found that these are being removed or tampered with. This is not only dangerous but also undermines efforts to keep the area safe for all. We kindly ask for your cooperation in respecting these rules and preserving the safety and integrity of the site.



## Coming to a village near you???

The photo shows the latest addition to the North End street-scene. It is a 12-metre telegraph pole plus large solar dish, battery pack and topped by an aerial and is for the Internet of Things!

'What 'Things'?' you ask. According to the information from the company that provided it, plus searches on the Web, we understand that it can be used to:

- Monitor and control streetlights we don't have any streetlights!
  - Control traffic lights none of those either!
- Read water meters and monitor water use- what few water meters we have are read once a year, manually, and we do not have mains drains either! Thus, this device appears to be without purpose in a very rural hamlet like North End.

The first we knew of its coming was via a notice pinned to a gateway plus a painted circle on the grass verge nearby to mark the proposed location. Numerous residents wrote to the company responsible asking what it was for and why it could not be placed on one of the many existing telegraph poles. We received standardised replies of 'word salad' that were not very helpful. Further enquiries appear to be ignored.

The national guidelines for the erection of such equipment states that they should not be placed in a prominent position and proximity to Listed Buildings and monuments should be avoided. Unfortunately, this pole and its equipment is extremely prominent, not only due to its position at the top of the hill in Mill Road and being a third bigger than any other nearby telegraph pole; it is also in the middle of a group of Listed Buildings! Sadly, enquires to Chelmsford Planning Department revealed that they had deemed it 'Permitted Development' back in May, so there was nothing more we could do! ...Our only hope is that its aerial on the top of the hill might attract a big bolt of lightning and thus remove the problem!





## Parish Councillor Vacancy

Are you passionate about your community?



Do you want to help make a long-lasting change?

Do you have innovative ideas for the council?

Do you have concerns about local issues?

Make a change, become a councillor.

We have a vacancy on the Parish Council for the Church End Ward to be filled by co-option.

For applications and further information contact: clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk

The Parish News relies entirely on advertising to pay its printing costs. Please support the magazine by renewing your advert or taking out an advert to promote your business. Volunteers deliver to approximately 1000 households in the Parish.

For more information, email gwparishnews@gmail.com



### **Great Waltham Parish Council**

The Pavilion, Great Waltham Recreation Ground, South Street, Great Waltham, CM3 1DF. Clerk, W J Adshead-Grant. Tel: 07880 717329.

E Mail: clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk

This is a summary of some of the items discussed at the June meeting of the Parish Council. For more details, see the full and approved minutes of all Council meetings on the parish website (e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish). Mike Steel, our county councillor, reported that the LHP (Local Highways Panel) has a revised budget of £6m, but that

Mike Steel, our county councillor, reported that the LHP (Local Highways Panel) has a revised budget of £6m, but that it is no longer open to new schemes and will focus instead on clearing the (several years) back log of outstanding ones. Subject to LHP assessment and approval, third parties (e.g. parish councils) may be able to fund new schemes.

We agreed that the Council should again lead the organisation of the 9th November Remembrance Sunday events later in the year. A few days later a working group of parish organisation representatives had its first meeting to get things underway.

I updated the meeting with progress on the project to refurbish the children's play area at Great Waltham Recreation

Ground. Following a formal tender process, agreeing designs, and making an 'intention to award' decision to a supplier, we are currently encountering the hard yards in terms of fundraising. While the Council has reserves it will use for the project, we still need grants and donations. We received a setback when our bid for a grant from the National Lottery was unsuccessful, and while we are making other bids, additional support will be needed if the plans are to come to fruition. Otherwise, we are likely to have difficult decisions to make about the future of the facility.

Therefore, if you own a local business and would like to sponsor a particular play item, either in full or part, it will be either be branded with your company's name or logo, or the name/logo will be added to a sponsors' board at the entrance to the play area. If you are interested, please contact us at <a href="mailto:gtwalthamplayground@gmail.com">gtwalthamplayground@gmail.com</a>.

Alternatively, as an individual or family, you can also make a contribution and leave a legacy for the current and future children in the Parish. You can donate by going to this website

https://www.gofundme.com/f/great-waltham-playground-refresh-2025 or using the QR code shown here. Your support would be much appreciated.

Steve Gilbert Chair



## Andy Tinsley Memorial Cricket Match OLD CODGERS V

## **YOUNG PRETENDERS**

## Sunday 7th Sept 2024 12 noon start

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Great Waltham Community Network bringing the community together



## Ford End Senior Tea



We are having a summer break this month of August. I hope you are all enjoying the sunshine and it's not too hot.

Look out in September for our next tea date.

For any more information call Sheila 07977 077945

## **Great Waltham Parish Community Care Group**

The aim of the group is to provide short term and ongoing help to meet the needs of elderly local residents for whom there is no statutory provision. Predominately this will involve providing transport to local doctor and hospital appointments.

If you require the services of the group, please call our co-ordinators who are

Gill Mitchel 01245 362215 Wendy Proctor 01245 360483 John Lattimore, Chairman 01245 363818

Thank you for all of the contributions to this edition of the Great Waltham Parish News. Please send your contributions for the next issue, together with any enquiries or advertising requests, by email to: gwparishnews@gmail.com. The last date for inclusion in the September issue is August 21st 2025